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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 002758

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/18/2022

TAGS: PREL MNUC PARM KNPP IR DR

SUBJECT: IRAN NIE DEMARCHEES DELIVERED

REF: A. STATE 162558

1B. STATE 165967

Classified By: EcoPol Counselor Daniel Bellegarde. Reasons: 1.4(b) and (d).

11. (C) ECOPOLCOUNS delivered talking points/non-papers contained reftels to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on December 17 to Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Trullols, who had just returned after two weeks out of the country. Trullols said that Iranian activities were "a matter of worry and something that the UNSC should be on top of", adding that Iran having a nuclear weapon "would bring the Mideast to a very difficult, unstable situation -- if you take Ahmadinejad at his word, he will test it on Israel". He said that the Security Council "will have a very difficult time in the coming months", and that "the only hope now is for the UN to keep this on top of the table". Trullols closed by saying that he would personally bring the talking points/non-papers to Foreign Minister Morales so they could discuss them.

12. (C) Comment. Both Trullols and Foreign Minister Morales attended the Non-Aligned movement in Tehran in early September (to pursue votes for DR's UNSC bid) -- and neither was favorably impressed. Trullols observed that "it is obvious that they are a dictatorship and that they do not care what other people think. It is dangerous when you rule a country from religious scripture -- at that point, God says whatever (the regime) wants, so evil becomes good and good becomes evil." Clearly, the GODR does not trust the current Iranian regime and is skeptical of their motives in pursuing a nuclear program outside of UNSC or IAEA control. End Comment.

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